



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project Cape May County, NJ

July 2007

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Rep. LoBiondo (NJ-2)

APPROPRIATION / PHASE:

Continuing Authorities / Planning & Design Analysis

BUSINESS PROGRAM:

Ecosystem Restoration

AUTHORITY: Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986

LOCATION: Pond Creek is located adjacent to the Delaware Bay in Lower Township and the Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey. Pond Creek is located within the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area.

DESCRIPTION: The goal of the proposed restoration project is to restore Pond Creek to an estuarine intertidal emergent marsh, dominated by native species such as saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina*). This will be accomplished by reducing common reed (*Phragmites australis*), which is the current dominate vegetation at Pond Creek. Implementation of the project goal will be accomplished by reestablishing daily tidal inundation to an increased amount of marsh at Pond Creek. The current condition of the site has very limited daily tidal inundation of the Pond Creek marsh.

Specifically, a new 920-foot-long channel with a bottom width of 20 feet will be constructed. The proposed new creek length would be approximately 920 ft from Delaware Bay to a newly constructed water-control structure. The new creek alignment would be consistent with previous historical locations of Pond Creek. The water control structure would be located in the middle of the north spoil pile and would be approximately 17 ft high and 40 ft wide. The proposed structure would be composed of four box culverts with gates on each to control the amount of water entering the marsh. When completed, the elevation of the completed water control structure will be 1.3 ft higher than the water surface elevation of the 500-year Delaware Bay storm, but would allow daily inundation of approximately 170 acres of *Phragmites* salt marsh.

STATUS: FY01-05 funds were used for the Planning and Design Analysis (PDA) Phase. There is a 30% level design completed for the project; however, the project is waiting further funding to complete (100% level) the project design. All required NEPA documents have been completed for the project. Construction is anticipated in FY08 or FY09.

TIMELINE

Preliminary Restoration Plan Approved	March 2001
Planning & Design Analysis Initiated	February 2002
Draft EA to the Public	June 2005
Final EA completed	December 2006
Complete Project Design	April 2008
Project Cooperation Agreement	May 2008
Construction	Aug 2008

Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project, Cape May County, NJ
(continued)

FINANCIAL

DATA (\$000)	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Planning & Design Analysis	450		450
Construction	1500	650	*2,150
Total	1950	650	2,600

*Does not include potential deferred cost of sheet pile jetty estimated at \$800,000. Cost does include contingency, Engineering and Design (E&D), and Supervision and Administration (S&A). Contingency is 25%. E&D and S&A were each 10% of construction cost.

SPONSOR: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

FUNDING: This project will not receive any funding under the FY07 Work Plan.

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